

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

EB-07 OPIC-03 AID-05 /075 W  
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R 232030Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6366

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 33588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PO FR

SUBJECT: SOARES MEETING WITH MITTERRAND

REF: PARIS 33086

SUMMARY: THAUVIN, DEPUTY TO PS SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HAS PROVIDED US ACCOUNT OF MITTERRAND-SOARS MEETING DECEMBER 14 WHICH COINCIDES ON NUMBER OF POINTS WITH SOARES' CONVERSATION WITH SAUVAGNARGUES (REFTEL) BUT GOES BEYOND IT ON OTHERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE:

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SOARES WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN EVER BEFORE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR RENEWED PORTUGUESE STABILITY, PROVIDED PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED. AS IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH SAUVAGNARGUES, SOARES CONFIRMED THAT PCP WOULD PARTICIPATE IN NEXT PORTUGUESE CABINET TO RESTRAIN COMMUNISTS AND TO MAKE THEM SHARE RESPONSIBILITY. NUMBER OF PCP PORTFOLIOS MAY EVEN HAVE TO BE INCREASED FROM ONE TO TWO. AS IN HIS QUAI CONVERSATION, SOARES WAS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT POLITICAL EVOLUTION WITHIN PPD WOULD PERMIT EARLY CABINET RECONSTRUCTION. THIS IN TURN SHOULD ENABLE GOP TO RESTORE MOMENTUM TOWARD DRAFTING OF CONSTITUTION AND TOWARD PORTUGAL'S NEW ELECTIONS. ELECTIONS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE ON ANNIVERSARY OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION IN APRIL.

2. SOARES' PROJECT FOR MEETING OF COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES:

MITTERRAND AND SOARES ALSO DISCUSSED GIVING NEW IMPETUS TO SOARES' IDEA OF A MEETING OF COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES OF PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY AND FRANCE. PS APPEARS TO SHARE SOARES VIEW THAT PCI WILL IN END BE WILLING TO ATTEND. AS FOR PCF, MARCHAIS TOO MAY SOFTEN HIS OPPOSITION. PS BELIEVES THAT AS PCF COMES CLOSER TO ITS OWN PARTY CONGRESS, IT WILL WANT TO AVOID QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSISTENCY OF ITS OPPOSITION TO SOARES' PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE COMMON PROGRAM. WE GATHER MITTERRAND AND SOARES CONCLUDED THAT PROSPECTS WERE SUFFICIENTLY GOOD TO WARRANT NEW SUPPORT FOR SOARES' IDEA.

3. PORTUGUESE NEED FOR ECONOMIC AID:

SOARES ALSO REVIEWED PORTUGAL'S SOARING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND ITS NEED FOR INCREASED EUROPEAN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION THAUVIN TOLD US THAT PS RECOGNIZED GOF'S BILATERAL AID PROGRAM FOR PORTUGAL HAD UP TO NOW BEEN SMALL BECAUSE OF UNSTABLE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION. NOW THAT THINGS SEEMED TO BE SETTLING DOWN, GOF MIGHT WELL INCREASE ITS AID, IF FOR

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NO OTHER REASON THAN TO AVOID GIVING SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN BONN LION'S SHARE OF CREDIT FOR HELPING RESTORE PORTUGUESE STABILITY. LIKE DEBENEST (REFTTEL), THAUVIN ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW OUR ATTENTION TO FRENCH STATE SECRETARY DIJOU'S LISBON VISIT. HE TOO CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY FOR ITS SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE AS FIRST FRENCH MINISTERIAL VISIT, BUT BECAUSE DIJOU WAS PERSONALLY ABLE AND A YOUNG BUT CLOSE GIS-

CARD ASSOCIATE. DIJOURD THEREFORE WAS WELL PLACED TO  
BRING BACK PORTUGUESE IDEAS FOR ADDITIONAL FRENCH AID.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE STRUCK BY FACT THAT PS, FOR THE  
FIRST TIME, HAS STATED TO US ITS BELIEF THAT GOF MAY  
DECIDE TO INCREASE ITS BILATERAL AID TO LISBON, POS-  
SIBLY IN RESPONSE SUGGESTIONS (BEYOND HIS OWN REFUGEE  
FIELD) WHICH STATE SECRETARY DIJOURD MAY BRING BACK FROM  
HIS VISIT. THIS WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM OUR TENTATIVE  
IMPRESSION (REFTEL) AFTER OUR CONVERSATION WITH QUAI.  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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